GENE PRODUCTS DIFFERENTIALLY EXPRESSED IN CANCEROUS COLON CELLS AND CORRELATION OF EXPRESSION PATTERNS

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

The present invention relates to methods and compositions useful in diagnosis of colon cancer, design of rational therapy, and the selection of patient populations for the purposes of clinical trials. The invention is based on the discovery that colon tumors of a patient can be classified according to an expression profile of one or more selected genes, which genes are differentially expressed in tumor cells relative to normal cells of the same tissue. Polynucleotides that correspond to the selected differentially expressed genes can be used in diagnostic assays to provide for diagnosis of cancer at the molecular level, and to provide for the basis for rational therapy (*e.g.*, therapy is selected according to the expression pattern of a selected set of genes in the tumor). The gene products encoded by differentially expressed genes can also serve as therapeutic targets, and candidate agents effective against such targets screened by, for example, analyzing the ability of candidate agents to modulate activity of differentially expressed gene products.

F:\DOCUMENT\2300\16335\!claims 2300-16335.doc